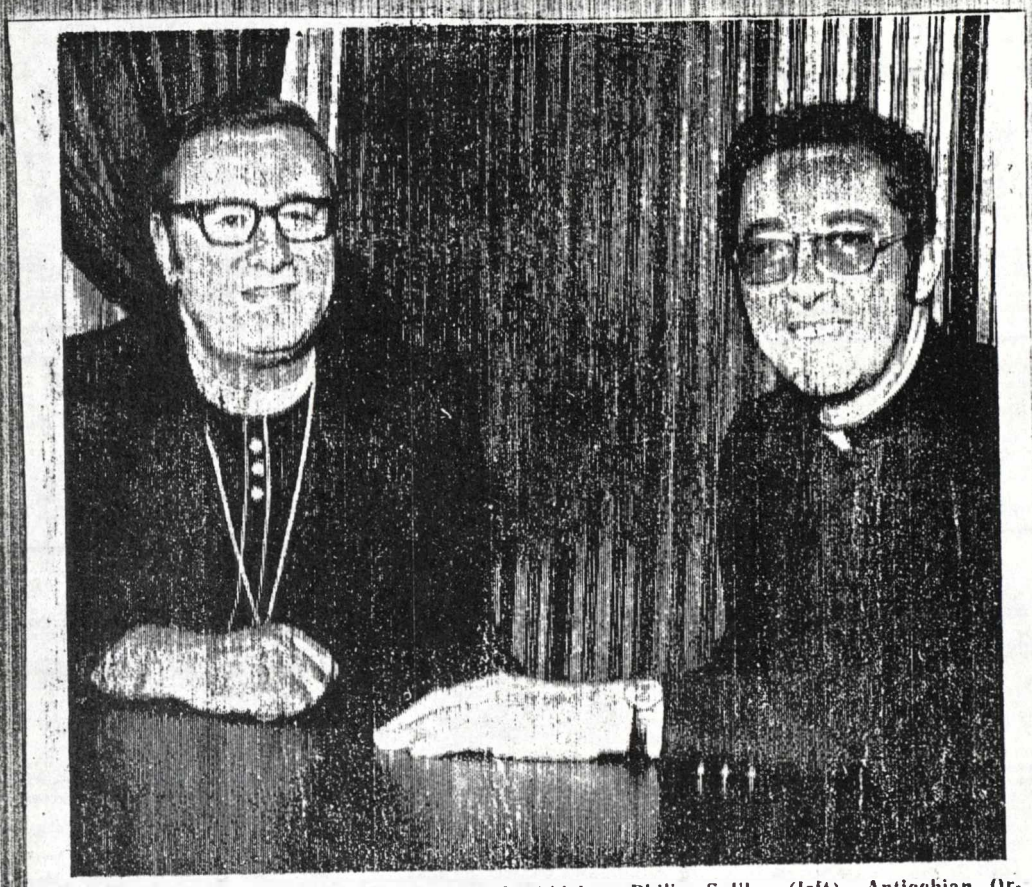
Churches (T.H.)



PEACE AND HONOR — Metropolitan Archbishop Philip Saliba (left), Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, brought words of hope for peace in the Middle East from his recent visit there as he came to Terre Haute this weekend to elevate to the rank of archpriest the Rev. George Rados of St. George's Orthodox Catholic Church. The designation comes in recognition of Father Rados' outstanding service, not only in parish duties, but in the work of the church throughout the nation and the world, according to the archbishop who said the new title, which means "first-priest," reflects the manner in which Father Rados ". . . has distinguished himself as a spiritual leader."

House of Photography Photo.

Mideast Peace Hope Of St. George Guest

Churches (T.H.) Community Affairs File

TS MAY 12 1974

By JACK HUGHES

Tribune Staff Writer

Accomplishment and hope, with words of peace from the Middle East, figure in a joyful celebration this weekend for members and friends of the parish of St. George's Orthadox Catholic Church.

The accomplishment is that of the Rev. George Rados, pastor of the church, being recognized in his elevatibn to the rank of archpriest by Metropolitan Archbishop Philip Saliba, Englewood, N. J., archbishop of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

Hope for a more peaceful world is found in comments by the archbishop on his recent trip to the Midle East where he talked with government leaders as well as people of the land and church.

"There is a great longing on the part of the people there for peace," reported Archbishop Saliba as he stated his belief that both sides in the 25-year

Continued on Page 15, Col. 1

conflict really are turning from quest for a military solution toward negotiation.

He said, "The Palestinian problem must be solved," describing that as the key question, and adding that it must be solved by peaceful means. "The Israelis want security and the Arabs want dignity," the archbishop continued, noting further that he has seen ". . . encouraging signs, particularly with our secretary (U.S. Secretary of State Kissinger) there."

Reflecting on history for a moment, Archbishop Saliba observed that the peoples separated by dispute for a quarter of a century are trying to recognize and accent joint heritage rather than their differences. "Arabs and Jews share heritage and traditions," he said as he went on to comment, "During the oppression in Europe, many Jews found refuge with Arab families who helped them. . . ."

The archbishop said he had just returned to the United States from his Syrian trip last Monday and was grateful for the opportunity of a return visit to Terre Haute. "It's so peaceful here," he exclaimed, adding that the purpose of his visit, to preside at the elevation of Father Rados to the rank of archpriest, makes it doubly enjoyable.

The archpriest designation, the highest ranking afforded a married priest, ". . . is not a reward — rewards come from God," said Metropolitan Saliba. "It is a recognition, an honor, reflecting Father Rados achievements (and the fact that) he has distinguished himself as a spiritual leader in many aspects."

In addition to Father Rados' service to his parish and the community in general for the past 13 years, the archbishop cited the priest's work as national leader of "Project Loving Care" which he said seeks to advance youth involvement in assisting the young people of Syria toward a better life through increased educational opportunity as well as to relieve suffering from war. He noted that his Syrian trip was, in part, to deliver funds to assist that goal.

Archbishop Saliba spoke at a press conference Saturday at the Ramada Inn, attended also by a number of dignitaries gathered here for the elevation ceremonies Sunday.

Assisting the archbishop in the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy are the Rt. Rev. Ellis Khouri, dean of the clergy of Grand Rapids, Mich.; the Rt. Rev. George Gannan of Worchester, Mass.; the Rt. Rev. Antoun Khouri, secretary to the archbishop; the Rev. Father Basil Kalekas of Flint, Mich.; the Rev. Father Joseph Rahal of Indianapolis, and the Rev. Deacon Elias Mitchell of Grand Rapids.

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St. George Orth.
Churches Other Community Affairs File

T s OCT 2 3 1983

Peace in strife-torn Mideast 'just a dream': Church official

By Sue Loughlin
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

The United States must assume a more even-handed, pro-Arab policy in the Middle East if it hopes to secure peace in the conflict-ridden area, a high-ranking Orthodox Church official said Saturday.

"I think the U.S. should be peacemakers ... not only for the sake of Israel and the Arabs, but for the sake of the U.S.," said Metropolitan Philip, Primate of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America.

Metro

The Primate is in Terre Haute for three days in honor of Rt. Rev. George Ghannam, who is celebrating 50 years of service in the Orthodox Church. He is also visiting local parishioners at St. George Orthodox Church, 1900 S. Fourth St.

There are 250 million Orthodox followers throughout the world, he said.

The Primate's archdiocese has 130 parishes and an active youth movement, which raises $100,000 each year to feed the hungry, he said. Membership in the local St. George Orthodox Church includes 85 families.

Metropolitan Philip said he sees no prospect for peace in the Mideast as long as "hardliners" such as Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir remain in power in Israel.

He said Israel has expropriated more than 50 percent of Palestinian land on the West Bank and has built 165 settlements there. "Such actions make peace a dream ... just a dream."

Metropolitan Philip spent 15 days in Lebanon earlier this year. He said the tiny country suffers from several contradictions — both internal and external. Among the internal ones, he said, is an outdated constitution, drawn up in 1943. Some Lebanese are not happy with it, and want it amended.

He also referred to tens of thousands who live in "utter poverty" around Beirut after they were forced to leave southern Lebanon because of Israeli invasion.

External factors include the influence of extremist Arabs, and the Israeli-Palestinian problem.

After so many wars in Palestine, Lebanon hosted more than 500,000 Palestinian refugees — including the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"The Palestinians waged war against Israel from Lebanon. Naturally, Israel retaliated."

These people have been denied their right to return to Palestine, he said.

"These people have lived there since time immemorial, and are entitled to human rights, according to the U.N. Charter," he said.

He believes the state of Israel has the right to exist, but "not at the expense of others."

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